

Liaison

Library Association News-Sheet

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November, 1959

N.L.L. STAFFING POLICY IS "UN SOUND"

D.S.I.R. pressed to use qualified librarians

A MEMORANDUM has gone to the newly formed Consultative Committee for the National Lending Library expressing the L.A.'s strong feelings over the policy which is being adopted for staffing the N.L.L. In the L.A.'s view, D.S.I.R.'s present insistence that library qualifications are of subsidiary importance to scientific qualifications and language ability in the selection of staff for the N.L.L., will prejudice the effectiveness of the Library and is wholly out of keeping with the current trend in industry and in other parts of the Government service.

Disturbed by the evidence of the Department's attitude on what could become a profoundly significant issue, the L.A. asked to see the Secretary of D.S.I.R., and it will be recalled that a deputation was received by Sir Harry Melville and senior officers of the Department on 13th July. A summary of the discussion at this meeting was printed in the September *Record*. At their October meetings both the Executive Committee and the Council endorsed the reactions of their delegates to the disappointing reception which the D.S.I.R. side gave to the L.A.'s views.

However, the L.A. representatives did not find the door completely slammed in their faces; Sir Harry Melville said he did not wish them to think their mission had been entirely unfruitful and conceded that D.S.I.R. could not afford to proceed with the establishment of the National Lending Library oblivious to the views of others. Sir Harry was willing for the Consultative Committee to review the staffing arrangements from the point of view of their probable effectiveness in meeting the interests of users. At this point Sir Harry invited

the L.A. to submit a memorandum to the Consultative Committee setting out their views.

The L.A.'s memorandum observes that D.S.I.R.'s order of priority in choosing staff for the N.L.L. is first, that they shall be scientists, secondly that they shall be linguists, and thirdly that they may be librarians. The firm view of the L.A. is that the first staff requirement for a library is a trained librarian. It points to the frequent recurrence with which libraries have only come to life when a professional librarian has succeeded the non-professional in directing the service. The added value to a chartered librarian of possessing a university degree and some command of languages is acknowledged; but, stating first principles, the memorandum reminds the Committee that there is plenty of evidence that "where enthusiasm and interest have been regarded as a substitute for training and experience" chaos has resulted.

Influence on Patent Office appointment?

During the Executive Committee's anxious consideration of the N.L.L. matter, Mr. L. R. McColvin gave a warning that the question of the succession at the Patent Office Library could not be ignored. As the nucleus of what may eventually be the National Reference Library for Science and Invention on the South Bank, the Patent Office Library would become in effect the counterpart of the National

The full text of the L.A.'s Memorandum on the National Lending Library appears on page 96. Details of the constitution of the new Consultative Committee were not officially available at the time of writing.

NATIONAL LENDING LIBRARY (cont.)

Lending Library. It is known that the Civil Service Commission have shortly to appoint a successor to the Chief Librarian at the Patent Office and the L.A.'s views are equally strong that the present requirements and potential importance of this library similarly demand a professional librarian.

The Civil Service Commission are currently seeking a man or woman "to assist in the expansion and development of the National Lending Library", for which the required qualifications are "a 1st or 2nd class Honours degree in a scientific subject, or high professional attainment . . ." together with "experience of scientific library or technical information work and preferably some research experience."

Slowly to a start

There are signs that the much-discussed plans for a general faceted classification scheme, sponsored by the L.A., may come to something at last.

Liaison of July 1958, recorded some of the early optimism that official L.A. delegates might go to the International Conference on Scientific Information in Washington able to announce initial plans for constructing the scheme. However, a recommendation (which the Council had approved) for a preliminary meeting of the interested parties in the U.K.—including B.N.B., British Standards Institution, Aslib and the Classification Research Group—did not materialize, and our delegate to Washington could make no announcement of the classification plans.

A meeting of the interested parties ultimately took place on 8th July last, and from this discussion three points emerged which were put to the Research Committee in October. It was agreed that the scheme should be of international application and that it might be possible to complete a prototype scheme in a comparatively short time. The L.A.'s particular interest was to determine how such a scheme could be tested in the first place, and it was thought that during next year the Aslib research project on comparative indexing methods, being carried out at the library of the College of Aeronautics, Cranfield, would provide some factual evidence for the appraisal of a faceted scheme.

The July meeting agreed that the investigation could best be carried out at B.N.B., and the principal recommendation to the Research Committee was that a grant of £3,000 should be made to allow B.N.B. to release a qualified member of their staff to carry out a full-time investigation, possibly for a year. This was accepted by the Research Committee and endorsed later by the Council; it was agreed, too, that the British Museum authorities be asked to consider financing the work.

WE'RE IN THE RESEARCH BUSINESS

£1,000 fund approved

The appointment of Mr. Plumb as Research Officer on the L.A.'s staff has been followed by an equally significant decision of the Council to establish a research fund.

When it was noted in *Liaison*, as recently as May, that "the Research Committee presents the curious situation of a research body having no research fund . . .", this merely echoed the sentiments of many who wished to see evidence of the L.A. becoming more research-minded. Now, this L.A. Research Grant allocates £1,000 a year to be used at the discretion of the Research Committee.

During the discussion it was observed that "the Research Committee has many projects but finds it very difficult to get the necessary manpower. Since no control of time or quality can be exercised over voluntary work, the results are often long in arriving and are inconclusive . . . Apart from helping to overcome these difficulties, a grant would encourage the younger members to become research-minded; a newly-qualified F.L.A. who won such a grant would receive a powerful impetus . . ." The grant could be used to cover, for instance, one full-time research fellowship (say £600), tenable at one of the library schools, or carried out under an approved tutor, and one or two smaller projects arising out of the Library Research Committee's business.

It is anticipated that the Research Officer will be associated in one way or another with all of the work which is financed from the Research Grant.

University to see proposals for L.A.'s new H.Q.

The architect and surveyor of the new offices to be built for the L.A. in Store Street have been given authority to put outline proposals before the University of London.

In reporting this, Mr. McColvin, no doubt sensible of voices that have already been raised in criticism and protest at the way in which the planning has apparently been handled so far, pointed out that "no commitments had yet been entered into with regard to the design of the building". Mr. McColvin added that both the plans and the final design do to a large extent depend on the financial arrangements which have ultimately to be made by London University.

Public Library Grading

In recent months L.A. and NALGO representatives have been discussing the best basis for a new grading decision for public library staff based upon the Roberts Committee recommendations, for submission to the National Joint Council. The measure of agreement reached is not yet known and were it known it would be inadvisable to put it into print at this stage.

The general climate of opinion in the L.A.'s Membership Committee, however, suggested that members hoped for action along the following three lines:

(a) That posts occupied by assistant librarians who are required to have passed the Registration Examination of the L.A. should be graded not less than APT.I.

(b) Posts occupied by librarians who are required to be Chartered Librarians—a scale of salary beginning at not less than the minimum of Grade II, but with an extended scale.

(c) Those posts which carry duties of a more responsible character would be left to the employing authority subject to the standard determined for (b).

Controversy over Rights of Institutional Members

The position of Institutional members of the Association was the subject of a long debate giving evidence of a wide divergence of opinion in Council. L.A. representatives had met a delegation of Institutional members representing County Boroughs, Non-County Boroughs and Metropolitan Boroughs.

As a result of this meeting the Council discussed action on two particular issues. One was the question of increasing the number of representatives of Associations or library authorities on the L.A. Council. The other concerned the means whereby at a Council or General Meeting, Institutional representatives would be enabled to record their dissension from any resolutions which directly concerned their authorities.

Proposals and counter-proposals, resolutions and amendments came thick and fast and it required all the skill and experience of the Chairman, Mr L. R. McColvin, to keep the debate on constructive lines.

Finally, when it became clear that Council was not likely to reach early agreement upon the problem, Mr. Gardner (Chairman of Executive Committee) undertook that his committee would look at the matter again.

CRITICAL ISSUES DEBATED

Major Split Avoided over Municipal Libraries Section

Of recent years few issues have caused so deep a division of opinion within the profession, as the proposal to form a section to represent the municipal libraries. The essence of the opposing viewpoints might be represented from a recent Membership Committee paper on the subject: "The formation of a Municipal Libraries Section would not weld the different branches of the profession more closely together . . . The L.A. could never be as cohesive or efficient as the unitary system provided for under our Charter." The other view: "A truly united Library Association, standing equally for all branches of its membership, will not effectively exist until a Municipal Libraries Section is formed."

The sub-committee appointed to examine the proposal presented in October last year, a twenty-five page report which came down heavily against the formation of such a section. Subsequently, this committee heard oral evidence from the Reference, Special and Information and from the University and Research sections, and at its October meeting the Membership Committee received a further report that its sub-committee had concluded that "there is nothing which enables us to recommend the creation of a Municipal Libraries Section . . ."

With this latest document the Membership Committee were faced with a critical decision. In the event, however, it was felt that in the light of changes of which the sub-committee's original report could not have taken account, this important question merited still further consideration. It was therefore decided to ask the Secretary, Mr. Barry, to review all aspects of the matter and to make a report as soon as possible.

THIS Memorandum was prepared as a result of the meeting between representatives of the Library Association and D.S.I.R. held at Charles House, 5-11 Regent Street, S.W.1, on Monday, 13th July, 1959.

1. In the report of the meeting between representatives of D.S.I.R. and the Library Association the following statement occurs:

"Summing up the various points made in reply by D.S.I.R. Sir Harry Melville said that the Department certainly recognized the position and value of trained librarians and would openly welcome staff with library training or qualifications, but he could go no further than to reaffirm that the Department's view was that the N.L.L. staff must *first* have a scientific qualification, and, as a desirable subsidiary, some knowledge of a foreign language or languages."

2. This means in effect that Sir Harry's order of priority in selecting staff is first, that they shall be scientists, secondly, that they shall be linguists, and thirdly, that they may be librarians. The opinion of the Library Association is that the first staff requirement for a library is a trained librarian. Such a view is not arrived at as a result of professional prejudice but from the development of libraries in this country (and elsewhere) and particularly those libraries which contain extensive collections organized for use; historically in these cases there is a frequent recurrence of inadequacy under the non-professional, turning to adequacy under the professional. Even in industrial libraries where the field of interest may be restricted, the trained librarian has come to be preferred to the scientist or technologist, because he has proved more effective.

3. There are reasons for this. As a result of training the librarian accepts the discipline which lies behind the selection of books and other forms of record and their coherent arrangement to ensure effective use and the highest degree of convenience. This discipline is as clear cut as the discipline which the architect accepts in relation to form and material, as the lawyer accepts in relation to forms and precedents, as the scientist accepts in relation to general laws arising from demonstrated truths or observed facts. It is a discipline from study, thought and practice. There was a time in the history of this country when the lawyer might be an inventor, when the bridge-builder expressed architectural as well as engineering principles, when the scientist was an amateur caught up by a new excitement. But that time has gone. The current process is one of creating new categories of specialization to overcome complexity. It is the belief of the Library Association that librarianship is a specialization and, indeed, that

the growth of libraries has been made possible by this single fact.

4. We do not maintain, of course, that the librarian is an exceptional species; we even recognize that there are minds capable of comprehending many things. But such minds are scarce, and it is because they are scarce that industry and science (and other human activities) have had to proceed from division to division to ensure that there may be progress based on ordinary intellects.

5. We would go further and argue that a university degree in science or technology brings with it little that is relevant to the total organization and administration of a library of science and technology. The degree is not a guarantee that even the field of literature within the range of the degree is known; indeed, there is no evidence that people possessing degrees in science or technology comprehend the bibliography of their chosen subjects, much less the bibliography of subjects outside their specialization, nor is there any evidence that such people have any knowledge of the principles on which books are arranged and made accessible. What we as librarians do know is the chaos which has occurred in libraries where enthusiasm and interest have been regarded as a substitute for training and experience. This is not to say, however, that librarians should not be educated to university degree standard, or that they should not be linguists.

6. The Library Association throughout its history has given its greatest emphasis to the training of librarians, and its syllabus of examinations is the firm foundation on which the librarian builds. In this work it has had the support of responsible librarians from every kind of library in the country and it can reasonably be asserted that most of the practical implications of librarianship are covered by the syllabus. It is not claimed that libraries or librarians have attained any high perfection; it is, indeed, acknowledged that more remains to be done. But sufficient has been achieved and progress has been sufficiently striking to convince the Association that the staffing policy outlined for the National Lending Library is fundamentally unsound, and lacking in a proper realization and recognition of the professional knowledge and experience to be found in the highly developed libraries in this country.

14th October, 1959.

British Council acts to improve its libraries

In the July number of *Liaison* appeared the text of a letter to *The Times* from the Secretary of the Library Association, criticizing the British Council for employing too few qualified British librarians in their libraries overseas. We are now pleased to report that the British Council are recruiting more librarians.

The nine posts advertised in the *Record* have been created as part of the expansion of the Council's library services announced earlier this year. This is reassuring evidence that the Council agrees with the Library Association that "books alone do not make a library". The increase in qualified staff will help to ensure that the large sums which the taxpayer is contributing for books and libraries are wisely spent.

We understand that the Council is anxious to recruit experienced librarians as quickly as possible. We are informed that they are looking for "competent librarians"; people who on their own initiative can organize, administer and exploit their library services and at the same time play their part in the general cultural activities of the Council overseas. The library profession in this country has many such members and the British Council should not be disappointed. This presents an opportunity to take part in the much publicized drive to get ourselves, our way of life, our thought and our ideas better known and appreciated throughout the world.

Call to increase aid to S.E. Asia libraries

The tail end of a long agenda at last month's meeting of the Executive Committee produced an item which the Committee were quick to recognize was of the greatest importance.

At the end of May, the Librarian of the University of Hong Kong, Mrs. Dorothea Scott, spoke to the Secretary and members of the Council of the ever-growing amount of American aid and influence in Hong Kong and in South East Asia generally, and she drew attention to the comparatively poor level of British influence. The provision of U.S. aid to areas where it is obviously needed, said Mrs. Scott, was clearly no cause for dismay; what was required was a parallel effort to increase British influence "in judiciously chosen projects where it would be most widely felt". Mrs. Scott emphasized that there was no question of competing with American aid, even if this were financially possible; "there is so much to be done everywhere that I feel sure the United States would welcome either British co-operation

Library School for West Africa

\$88,000 has been made available by the Carnegie Corporation for establishing courses of library training at Ibadan University in West Africa. This follows the two months' survey of the library position in that area by Professor Harold Lancour, of the University of Illinois (see the May *Liaison*).

Providing a sufficient number of teaching staff is available, the intention is to commence in 1960 the first two-years' course of library training for graduates and non-graduates, based on the Registration syllabus. It is hoped that graduates will undertake further work specially related to African literature and conditions, leading to a local diploma in African librarianship. The Ibadan school will draw students principally from Nigeria, with the possibility of some students from Ghana. Although there is enthusiastic support locally for the school, it is not expected that this will obscure the continuing advantages to West African students who can come to the U.K. to undertake full-time training at one of the library schools.

At the October meeting of the Education Committee there was some discussion of whether examination questions were always appropriate to the overseas candidate: heating of library buildings was instanced as a topic of probably only academic interest to the West African librarian. The examiners, it was stated, did recognize this need and it was felt that on the whole the examination papers being set represented a fair test for overseas candidates.

Dollar earning

R. R. Bowker Co., probably the major publishers in the American library field, have proposed that they should act as agents in America for future publications of the L.A. At present the Association has no representative in the U.S.A. for handling its publications.

This approach was received enthusiastically by the Publications Committee, where the implications of Bowker's wide advertising and circulation among American librarians was recognized. An agreement is to be negotiated with the publishers.

in certain library projects or parallel aid in agreed spheres". Mrs. Scott assured the Council that "there is a likely desire for more contact with British library methods in most territories, if only ways and means can be found of providing it".

The Committee decided on two immediate courses. The Library Service in the Colonies Subcommittee is to be revived and the whole question of British aid to libraries in S.E. Asia be referred to them. Secondly, the Secretary and the Education Officer are to seek an interview at the Colonial Office to discuss what measures the Government would be prepared to take.

Music Hath Charms, and Problems

MOST large conferences possess an atmosphere. The L.A.'s effort at Torquay, for instance, will be remembered by many as just another dry spell in 1959's long summer drought. For those who took themselves to the International Music Conference at Cambridge the 'dreaming spires' of Kings provided what one delegate described as an atmosphere of "grace, dignity and peace" for a busy week's round of lectures and recitals. It contradicted, too, the old jibe that musicologists are people who know a lot about music but hate listening to it, for possibly as much was played and listened to at Cambridge as was said.

This was the fifth international conference of the International Association of Music Libraries, but it differed from its predecessors in being arranged jointly with the first international conference of the Galpin Society. Very slightly the senior of the I.A.M.L., the Galpin Society was formed to continue the work of the late Canon F. Galpin in the study and use of early musical instruments. This double event attracted a proud total of about 180 visitors, half of whom came from abroad—New Zealand, Poland, U.S.A., East Germany, Italy and Yugoslavia. And among some of music's "household names" in the attendance list were Prof. O. E. Deutsch (the Schubert scholar), Thurston Dart (the renowned harpsichordist), Miss Valentine Britten (B.B.C. records library) and Prof. J. A. Westrup (Oxford History of Music). And by a happy accident, the President of the I.A.M.L. during the Congress was Mr. A. Hyatt King, of the British Museum, himself a King's man.

No common ground

On the face of it there seems little common ground between the two societies, but Prof. Westrup in his opening address on Practical Musicology made the connection obvious enough. He reminded the Congress that "the activities of both the librarian and the student of the old instrument are ultimately justified only by their use to the performing musician. Valuable music-books are useless if they are allowed to lie unconsulted on library shelves; shawms and sackbuts, lutes and psalteries are useless if they are regarded merely as exotic pieces of furniture."

Between them the two societies presented close on 50 papers. (Their very number, together with the fact that some were given concurrently, evoked the criticism of one visitor that this effectively prevented anyone from taking full advantage of the joint congress.) Following the familiar pattern, the I.A.M.L. subdivides itself into a number of working Commissions, representing radio, gramophone, university and research, and public libraries; and a cataloguing commission. Each section contributed to the Congress.

A panel, which included Prof. Deutsch and had Cecil Hopkinson as its chairman, tried to secure international agreement on the use and meaning of

"edition" and "issue" when applied to music. This proved to be nearly as difficult as getting international agreement on nuclear disarmament, and when no generally acceptable definitions had emerged from two sessions of this commission, the task was remitted to an international committee who will continue the discussion—by correspondence.

When music is pointless

The opening group of papers dealt with the more administrative problems of running music departments in public libraries in Leipzig, Manchester, Munich and Liverpool. One of the simple home truths which was stressed about this branch of the business, was that unperformed music is pointless, that the emphasis must be on the service for lending music to people who will perform it; the emotional appeal of music being, in any case, more general than the relatively intellectual appeal of books. The librarian of the Henry Watson Music Library interestingly observed that "the librarian more often suggests a new work to a choral society, than the choral society asks for a new work."

The far-reaching problems and possibilities of recorded sound provided another topic of common interest. The matter was cogently propounded by Dr. Harold Spivacke, head of the Music Division of the Library of Congress. His theme was the urgent need to conserve records systematically for research. Discussion of various aspects of this subject by other speakers gave some indication of the technical problems arising from adapting methods of service to ever-rising standards of reproduction, but also in catching up with the output of sixty-five very prolific years, especially the "incunabular" period from about 1895 to 1920.

DONEMUS

Another interesting paper, representative of the I.A.M.L.'s research group, was that by Dr. Jurrens on the Donemus Foundation: Do(cumentation) of Ne(therlands) Mus(ic). This organization makes available in the form of photocopies of MSS, new music by Dutch composers where this is not available in print; similarly, it collects and sponsors recordings of such music. Each photocopy is made to

continued on page 99

MUSIC AT CAMBRIDGE (concl.)

order for particular performances. Dr. Jütres mentioned that a 240-page publication on Music in Holland, compiled by Donemus, will shortly be issued.

A final group of papers formed a brief tour d'horizon of some of the world's music libraries. In a paper on the development of music research libraries in the Western U.S., Dr. Duckles (University of California) showed how the pattern of growth differed from that of the Continental libraries. The American libraries are comparatively young and have built up their collections by planned purchase, rather than by haphazard acquisition over a long period of years. The occasional large purchase (the library of a deceased music scholar, for instance) has, of course, been made, but as a rule the American libraries have started from scratch and developed in an organized fashion. A good deal of the most valuable building up of library collections has been achieved under the aegis of renowned scholars—Dr. Duckles mentioned in particular Manfred Bukofzer.

Eyes on "Iron Curtain"

Dr. F. Lundberg, of the Sveriges Radio Biblioteket, Stockholm, succeeded Mr. Hyatt King as President of I.A.M.L. Dr. Lundberg supported the proposal to publish the Association's journal, *Fontes Artis Musicae*, quarterly, and he added that he would like to see the journal expand and become more representative of music librarianship generally. Looking ahead to the next Congress, the President hoped that by then the I.A.M.L.'s membership would have risen from its present total, around seven hundred, to a thousand, and would have far more representatives from "iron curtain" countries such as Russia, Czechoslovakia and Poland. Finally, suggestions were made that the next Congress should be held in 1962, probably in Stockholm.

(With acknowledgements to Mr. G. E. Maby, University of Bristol Library.)

Travelling Bursary

A sum of £25 is the annual sum made available by the J. D. Stewart Travelling Bursary to personal members of the London and Home Counties Branch who may wish to study librarianship in another country.

Interested branch members are reminded that applications for this bursary are to reach—

Mr. K. C. Harrison,

Central Library,

The Burroughs, Hendon—

by January 1st 1960.

Hopes for Trade Union Fade

It will be recalled that the Secretary, Mr. Barry, was approaching other professional associations to obtain their views on the desirability of forming a new body representative of all the leading professions in the local government service, and which would eventually replace NALGO as the negotiating body for its members.

Mr. Barry reported at the October Executive Committee that he had met representatives of the Association of Local Government Engineers and Surveyors, the Association of Local Government Financial Officers, the Association of Education Officers, and he had also had correspondence with the Association of Education Officers.

As a result of these conversations it was clear that the Financial Officers, the Education Officers and the Engineers and Surveyors were not prepared to go any further with discussion about the formation of a new body of the kind envisaged. Mr. Barry thought that this attitude was largely due to the concessions which NALGO had recently made regarding representation of professional organizations on the grading sub-committee.

In the light of Mr. Barry's report the Committee decided that no further action was desirable until the new arrangements affecting membership of the NALGO grading sub-committee had had an opportunity to prove themselves.

Secretary to review organization of L.A.

No Council meeting seems complete without a contribution or motion (often controversial and frequently unpopular) from Mr. A. Shaw Wright (Herefordshire). At the October meeting, Mr. Shaw Wright sought the appointment of a committee to examine the organizational hierarchy of the Honorary Officers. The committee's terms of reference would include examination of the need for an Honorary Secretary and an Honorary Treasurer. The committee would also consider if any change was necessary in the appointment to the office of Vice-President and its function and purpose.

This proposal was not finally pressed to a vote by Mr. Shaw Wright due to an assurance from Mr. Barry (L.A. Secretary) that he would examine these ideas, in the large-scale review of the organization of the Association that he is about to undertake.

For the first time in its history the Library Association has topped the 13,000 mark in the number of librarians and institutions registered as members. At 30th September there were 13,020 registered members.

20,000 NEW BOOKS A YEAR

British books are the cheapest in the Western world and the Englishman who continually complains about the price of books would find that he had to pay substantially more for comparable books in most European countries and about double as much in the U.S.A. Since 1939 cloth-bound books have barely doubled in price here although paper is five times and printing and binding more than three times their pre-war cost.

"The real victor . . ."

These points were made by Philip Unwin in the Annual Livery Lecture of the Stationers' and Newspaper Makers' Company at Stationers' Hall on 28th October. He claimed that an intensive study of economies in production methods and a widening market have helped to keep prices down. This has been assisted also by the situation recently summed up by a German publisher who said, "the real victor in the last war was the English language". After describing essentials in the process of publishing, how in fact a publisher goes about his job, Mr. Unwin commented on the structure of book publishing today in which more than four hundred firms produce over 20,000 new books per annum. He emphasized the extreme difficulty of finding an adequate market for such a number of titles and the impossibility of booksellers stocking more than a fraction of them. In no other country are new publishing houses set up so readily and on such slender resources. It is therefore inevitable that there should be many failures and frequently the new young firms are taken over by older established publishing houses. There is no serious tendency towards monopoly in this—besides a few large publishing groups such as Hutchinson, Heinemann and Collins there are still several hundred individual publishing firms.

Electronics no substitute

Mr. Unwin forecast an expanding market for books, television notwithstanding; book sales have increased sixfold since 1939 and a rising standard of education and higher incomes must lead to a greater demand. Even in this day of electronic memories the well-produced and properly indexed book still remains the most efficient method of recording knowledge. It is up to publishers and booksellers to increase the efficiency of their trade still further and to make books more readily accessible to the public, and Mr. Unwin gave some pointers on how this might be achieved.

Bigger library discount?

Representatives of the Library Association are to meet the Booksellers' and the Publishers' Associations on Wednesday, 25th November to present the L.A.'s case for an increase in the discount allowed under the Library Licence Agreement.

The passion for books

"Your shelves ought to expose the borrower to every sort of risk."—Dr. Arnold Toynbee, at the International Congress of Booksellers.

And first things first . . . At the same function Mr. G. R. Davies, secretary of the Booksellers' Association of Great Britain, recalled once in a bookshop a clergyman asked for *Dracula*, and the assistant asked him: "Is it a book?" When the manager had finished with a woman who wanted a roll of yellow paper to cover up a stain on a wall, he told the clergyman *Dracula* was out of stock. It turned out there was a 2s. reprint in paper covers. The manager offered to order it, the customer said not to bother. "I was behind the clergyman," said Mr. Davies. "I only wanted drawing pins. I was served in a trice."

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The annual Booksellers' Association Conference recorded that the average sales of books per head of population last year—excluding public libraries and education authorities—amounted to an estimated 17s. 1d. This compared with £19 for alcohol and £17 10s. for tobacco.

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The recent printing strike delivered the *coup de grâce* to the publishing firm of ALLAN WINGATE. Already facing financial difficulties before the strike began, the stoppage so interfered with plans for new publications which might possibly have restored the balance financially, that the directors have been obliged to decide upon voluntary liquidation.

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From A PASSION FOR BOOKS, by Laurence Clark Powell, librarian of University of California (published by Constable in September). "Too often the librarian sinks into a stupor of routine, in which he goes through the motions of checking books in and out with an eye only for their call numbers. Too busy to read is the cry of this robot librarian, and to my ears it is a death cry. God help him who is too busy to read, for he has forfeited his claim to professional rank."

"If a bookseller is unable continually to turn over his stock, he ought to become a librarian."

BRIEFLY

Miss W. E. Alder-Barrett, M.A., F.L.A., D.P.A., County Librarian of Cumberland, and an active member of the Northern Branch and the County Libraries Section, died on 22nd October.

In August, Tyne-Tees Television began a series of weekly "book corners" in their children's television programmes. Four or five books are being introduced each week by one of a panel from the **Newcastle City Libraries** staff—Miss Norma Woolnough, Miss Anne Skidmore, and Mrs. Margaret Nelson. The provisional arrangement was for three programmes, but the series has now been extended into the autumn.

A **£450,000 grant** has been made by the Isaac Wolfson Foundation to the Royal College of Physicians. This is the largest benefaction the College have received in all their four and a half centuries, and will enable them to build an enlarged library and two lecture theatres on their new site.

As part of the expansion of **Queen Mary College, London**, a three-storey overbridge has been built across the entrance to a road which leads to **Stepney's** central library. This effectively obscures the library and the librarian records that "many people probably do not realize that the public library lies beyond." This has been accepted as an incentive to improve the quality of the bookstock "so as to obtain new readers by personal recommendation and not just through curiosity."

In the past year 22 out of 35 assistants resigned from **Wandsworth** libraries. The turnover in staff during recent years was reported by the Borough Librarian to have had "a very serious effect on the service to the public, and few junior assistants have stayed long enough to obtain any more than a mere smattering of bibliographical knowledge."

Care to see my etchings? Picture loan schemes are under consideration at **Kensington** and **Leeds**. Kensington would make pictures by local artists available on loan for three months for ten shillings, with the intention of encouraging support for local artists and providing a market for their works, by giving borrowers the option of purchasing outright at the artist's price. The former commercial library room at Leeds is to be converted into a print room and art library in the autumn. At the same time, if the proposal is accepted, high quality reproductions of the world's pictures, together with original prints, etchings and engravings, framed and glazed, will be available for loan.

A nucleus collection representing the writings of the late Prof. G. D. H. Cole has been assembled at **Ealing** central library. Over 300 books and other publications, all gifts from the Fabian Society and individuals, have been brought together, and Mrs. Cole has promised material from her husband's papers before the end of the year.

French newspapers filmed. An Association for the Preservation and Photographic Reproduction of the Press has been set up in Paris with the object of establishing film archives of newspapers. In a specially equipped workshop, the Association plans to record on 35 mm. film the main French newspapers as they appear, and also to microfilm those at present housed in the national archives. The material will be available to research workers and members of the press generally, both in France and abroad. Microfilms may be viewed at the Association's offices, 4 rue de Louvois, Paris 2e, or copies of negatives or positives may be obtained at cost price.

Barrow's burden. Mr. F. Barnes, librarian and curator of Barrow-in-Furness, reports that year by year the museum in the central library building becomes shabbier as the antique wooden cases warp and crack and the exhibits gather dust for want of adequate routine care. "It has to be remembered," he says, "that there is no staff allocated to the museum and that in most years expenditure is nil. In these circumstances the amount of attention given to the museum depends on the amount of staff time that can be stolen from library duties—in the last 12 months this has been almost none."

The A.M.C. has approved a suggestion for nationwide inter-availability of library tickets, which would mean that tickets of one authority would be accepted by any other authority in the country.

Sheffield has plans for a branch library which will be linked by a covered way to a block of flats which are to be built specially for old people. The library will adjoin a county school and a large junior library is being incorporated in the building.

All in a day's work . . . Featured by the *Yorkshire Post* in her job with the W. Riding travelling library service, Miss Sylvia Hamilton commented "Nothing would induce me to go back to a permanent library . . . After 3 years on this run I am immune to surprises. The last time out we had to rescue a cow that had its head trapped between the bars of a gate."

Report from Belgrade

by

Miss C. M. Pollock,

British Council Librarian in Yugoslavia

The Fourth Congress of the Federation of Associations of Librarians of the Federative People's Republic of Yugoslavia took place in Belgrade from 27th to 29th May.

The Congress opened on Wednesday morning with a plenary session. Some 400 delegates and representatives of different libraries had gathered from all parts of Yugoslavia and they were welcomed by the President of the Federation, Dr. Mirko Rupel, Director of the National and University Library, Ljubljana, Slovenia. A special welcome was extended to the foreign librarians present, one from the West German Library Association, one from the Library Association of Italy, two from the United States Information Service libraries in Yugoslavia, one from the British Council, Yugoslavia and one from the Cultural Centre of the Soviet Union in Belgrade.

After the formal opening of the Congress and the Presidential speech by Dr. Rupel marking the occasion as the 10th anniversary of the Federation of Yugoslavia Library Associations, the morning session ended with a paper given by Dr. Matko Rojnić, Director of the National and University Library Zagreb, Croatia, on "The importance of libraries for science and culture".

Next, those members who wished to do so went along to the University Library in Belgrade where they were received by the Director, Mrs. Milica Prodanović, where two very interesting exhibitions had been arranged, one showing examples of all the library literature produced by members of Yugoslav Library Associations during the last 10 years, and the other showing modern scientific methods of preserving manuscripts, books and periodicals or of making good as far as possible damage done by such enemies as insects, fungi, fire and water.

Latin for the science librarian?

The afternoon and part of the next morning were taken up by the business part of the Congress—reports of the Administrative and Financial boards—and by discussion arising out of these reports. A particularly lively discussion developed over the question of the content of the professional examination syllabus—was a knowledge of the Latin language and palaeography, for instance, really necessary as a qualification for a librarian in a modern technological and scientific library? There

were also speeches in support of the decision, which had been taken following the general trend of affairs in Yugoslavia, to separate from the professional association of librarians its function as a Trade Union.

After this the Congress split into two sections, one the Commission for Scientific Libraries to deal with the problems of university, scientific, national and special libraries and with bibliographical work, the other, the Commission for Public Libraries to deal with the problems of town and country public libraries, libraries for children and with the Trade Union libraries which have been set up in factories and elsewhere.

Library training for scientists

The Commission for Scientific Libraries dealt in its papers and discussions with the following subjects: the object of the National Libraries and the special part played by them, Special Libraries and their part in training specialists and scientific staff, the ways in which scientific libraries can provide information and help to scientific workers, and the importance of bibliographical information to scientists in Yugoslavia. There was much emphasis on problems which are worldwide: the need for more space, better buildings, more and better trained personnel, the growing needs of scientists and technologists for accurate information and good bibliographies, the necessity of co-operation and co-ordination particularly in the bibliographical field. The Commission also arranged an afternoon visit to the University Library "Svetozar Marković", to the library of the Academy of Sciences and to the National Library, Belgrade.

The Commission for Public Libraries heard papers on "Public libraries and adult education", "The importance of mobile libraries", "The special part played by syndicate libraries", "Children and young people's libraries and their importance for juvenile education and manners", "Possibilities of co-operation between school libraries and public libraries", "Information work in public libraries" and "Library centres and their importance in the educational work of public libraries".

In the afternoon of the third day the Congress met again in plenary session to hear reports from the two Commissions and to frame its final decisions and

continued on page 103

YUGOSLAV LIBRARY CONGRESS (cont.)

resolutions. The most important resolutions were concerned with (a) the need for the promulgation of a Federal Law on libraries which would ensure that libraries were established on a firm legal basis and would define the conditions under which they might be opened and run; (b) the need for specialist library staff to supervise and to co-ordinate the work of libraries in different districts and to encourage efficient methods of work and co-operation between libraries national, university, scientific and special; (c) the need for expansion and improvement of the public library services including libraries for children; (d) the needs of libraries in schools including the provision of trained librarians or staff to run them; (e) the need for more space everywhere, for new and well-planned buildings, more premises for scientific, technological and public libraries and the enlargement of existing libraries; (f) the need for improved bibliographical services and for money for certain important projects, for instance: the printing of a central catalogue of the foreign periodicals in Yugoslavia, the compilation of catalogues of Yugoslav books in each Republic in preparation for the compilation of a central catalogue of Yugoslav books, the publication of a central catalogue of Yugoslav periodicals, the speeding up of the work being done in the various Republics in the retrospective bibliography of Yugoslav books; (g) the final resolution dealt with the organization of the Federation, with the specialist help it should give working people through their libraries and with the future publication of literature on libraries and librarianship.

The new President of the Federation of Associations of Librarians of Yugoslavia, elected at the Congress, is Mr. Milutin Ivanušić, Director of the Bibliographical Institute, of the F.P.R.Y.

The first Public Relations Adviser to be appointed to act for The Library Association is Michael Higgins, whose office is at 39 Hay's Mews, London, W.1.

Mr. Higgins is a public relations consultant and a Member of the Institute of Public Relations. For the past ten years he has worked in the public relations departments of major advertising companies in London and prior to that was in journalism since he left school in 1935.

Mr. Higgins will find that one of the questions which have now been reserved for his attention is that old chestnut, the National Libraries Week. It was reported to the October Executive Committee meeting that the Gulbenkian Trustees feel unable to provide the money for this enterprise. The Committee could see no immediate alternative but to turn the question over to the new P.R.A. for the benefit of his fresh, professional approach.

Retirement of Henrik Jones

Another retirement this year of a member of the Association's staff was marked by a formal tribute by Council and the presentation of a cheque. This Council meeting was the last which our very popular Librarian and Information Officer, Mr. D. C. Henrik Jones attended, due to his retirement in October.

Mr. Jones made a characteristically warm-hearted speech in which he thanked the Council and the profession at large for the many happy years that he has enjoyed in its service.

Mr. J. D. Reynolds, Borough Librarian of Finchley, assumes the editorship of the *Library Association Record* in January 1960, in succession to Dr. A. J. Walford who has been its editor since 1953.

A Reprieve for the Lady in the Flannel Nightie

"This stodgy representation of a self-conscious



female, sensibly clad in warm flannel nightwear, posed at the end of a billiard table."

This definition of our professional Coat of Arms must surely dispel any loyal heart-stirrings the emblem may perhaps have inspired. The description was employed by Mr. M. C. Pottinger in an appeal to the Executive to commission "a properly designed Coat of Arms, conforming to correct heraldic practice." Mr. Pottinger reminded the Committee that the emblem is reproduced tens of thousands of times on various publications and documents issued by the Association, that it would probably be incorporated somewhere in the new building, and in the name of all those members he knew who had not a good word to say for the present emblem, Mr. Pottinger called for a change.

There was no great sympathy in the Committee for the idea of a change, and the sketch of an alternative design failed to win any support. A remit to the Secretary to look at the possibility of improving the present emblem was as far as the Committee would go.

One Man and His Index

"Englishmen", quotes the author of a new book, "do not understand indexing . . ." He then proceeds to tell this little story of one who did.

A friend of mine called Rarish had a curious experience in World War II. He was drafted into a certain military unit and, as the only recruit that day, had the unusual (and unsought) honour of being interviewed by the O.C. The O.C., a frightening man by any standards, stared at him ferociously for several seconds without speaking. Finally:

"You're a librarian?" he barked.

"Yes, sir," answered Rarish nervously.

"Follow me!" commanded the O.C., brushing past him into the next room. There the scene was chaotic: row upon row of makeshift boxes filled with an untidy mass of cards were spread out on long trestle tables. The unit was a very large one and its personnel records were obviously in a very bad way. Too many cooks had had a finger in this pie.

"Get some order into this mess!" ordered the O.C. and strode out again. Rarish got down to it; with the aid of two ex-miners, a former chimney-sweep and a transferee from the Marines, they got the whole mass of cards into one alphabetical sequence, with sufficient home-made signals to indicate the AWOL's, the sick, the non-existent and the other categories which needed special attention. In two days' time he reported himself ready for inspection. The O.C. marched in, accompanied by most of the available officers. Rarish saluted. The O.C. meticulously returned the salute.

"Give me the card relating to . . . 05234591 Brown, A. D.," he ordered.

Rarish flicked through his cards, produced the entry within a matter of seconds. As the O.C. scrutinized the card there was a general murmur of amazement and appreciation from his satellites.

"Wait a moment, gentlemen," muttered the O.C., "may be just a flash in the pan." He looked at Rarish: "Good!" he said, "now let me have 572835917 Cook, A. S."

Rarish was quicker this time: the entry was in the O.C.'s hand almost as soon as he had finished speaking.

Virtue was never more quickly rewarded: Rarish was promoted, allowed to live out with his family, had a permanent pass to enter and leave camp at will. No-one ever told him to get a hair-cut. He was the camp's star turn: at every great inspection the brass-hats were brought to see Rarish's index, and it never failed to impress them with the efficiency of that noble unit.

As the author rather sadly reflects: "Few people have such a spectacular opportunity of demonstrating the benefits of an efficient indexing system . . .".

(R. L. Collison, *Indexes and indexing: guide*

Can L.A. Succeed Where Others Failed?

Forewarned, but undeterred, by the failure of the Cleaver-Hume *Technical Article Index* and of IOTA (the *Index of Technical Articles*), the Publications Committee are proceeding cautiously, but not unhelpfully, with its assessment of the financial and production implications which would be involved in a technical periodicals index sponsored by the L.A.

At its October meeting the Committee had before it a preliminary report by Mr. P. Ferriday, editor of the L.A.'s *Subject Index*, on the original suggestion by Mr. Bryon for an index of technical periodicals. The Committee also heard the views of Mr. P. Colehan, who had investigated the matter independently for the Reference, Special and Information Section. There was no dispute that the need for such a tool existed and that the L.A. ought to be one of those primarily associated with its production.

A small sub-committee was formed to examine some of the many questions which would have to be resolved. Apart from cost, the manner of presentation, and the staff required, opinions are undoubtedly divided on the need for a classified arrangement and the cataloguing style which may need to be adopted. This sub-committee had its first meeting on 9th November.

Blowing Up Noddy

The Research Committee is looking into the practicability of using one of the document copying processes for producing relatively small runs of children's books in enlarged print. Mr. B. I. Palmer, the Education Officer, asked the Committee to consider this as a possible means of providing texts of sufficient size to be read by partially-sighted children, and adults.

The Research Officer has been asked to discuss this matter with the Director General of the National Library for the Blind, and particularly to gain some idea of the numbers of children so handicapped, bearing in mind also those who attend special schools.

Xerography was mentioned as one process which might be suitable for this purpose, but the Committee decided that the relative technical merits and production cost-per-run of all various methods currently available would need to be carefully examined in this context.

to the indexing of books, and collections of books, periodicals, music, gramophone records, films and other materials. Benn. 1959. 21s.)